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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 59th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 146: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVANCE MISSION IN CAMBODIA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 148: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued)

OTHER MATTERS

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 146: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVANCE MISSION IN CAMBODIA (continued) (A/46/855, A/46/873; and A/C.5/46/L.21)

AGENDA ITEM 148: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued) (A/46/235/Add.1, A/46/874; A/C.5/46/L.22)

1. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada), introducing draft resolutions A/C.5/46/L.21 on the financing of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia UNAMIC) and A/C.5/46/L.22 on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said that agreement had been reached on the two texts following informal consultations. The first draft resolution followed the standard format and was similar to resolution 46/198, except that it expanded the mandate of UNAMIC and proposed an additional appropriation of US$ 19,257,000 gross (US$ 19,204,000 net) (para. 3).

2. He wished to submit a number of amendments to draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.22: in the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "Authority" should be replaced by the word "operation"; in paragraph 2, the words "for the deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia" should be deleted; in paragraph 3, the word "initial" before the word "amount" should be deleted; at the end of paragraph 3, the words "and requests the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia" should be added; and in paragraph 5, the word "gross" should be deleted.

3. In the course of the informal consultations, some delegations had expressed the view that the letters of assessment should be issued as quickly as possible so as to allow the operation to be launched promptly. Other delegations felt that, since UNTAC involved a special procedure and there were no existing provisions on the matter, consideration should be given, as a matter of urgency, to the overall administrative aspects of peace-keeping.

4. He urged the Committee to adopt both draft resolutions without a vote.

5. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) noted that paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.21 did not follow the standard format. He therefore proposed that the words "and conclusions" should be deleted. With regard to draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.22, he pointed out that paragraph 2, as orally amended, was now a very general exhortation, inappropriate to the specific purpose of the text. As the aim of the resolution was to raise funds, some reference should be made to the urgent need to start up the operation in question. He did not wish to submit a formal amendment, but would like his remarks reflected in the record.

6. He agreed that the letters of assessment should be issued as quickly as possible, and he asked the Controller to confirm that it would be possible to do so.

7. Mr. ANNAN (Controller) confirmed that the letters of assessment would be issued immediately the resolution was adopted.

8. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) drew attention to what he felt were two errors in the French version of draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.22. In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "par le déploiement" should be replaced by "par la préparation du déploiement". In paragraph 3, he felt that the word "final" in the French text was not an appropriate translation of the word "eventual" in the English text.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Editors would be asked to check the two texts carefully.

10. Draft resolutions A/C.5/46/L.21 and A/C.5/46/L.22, as orally amended, were adopted without a vote.

11. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal), explaining the position of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve fully supported the comprehensive settlement plan for Cambodia and the agreements signed in Paris in October 1991. They were aware of the urgent need to establish and deploy UNTAC in order to prevent any erosion of the peace process. Everything must be done to ensure that the timetable for voter registration and the holding of elections laid down in the Paris agreements was respected. The Twelve were also aware of the time required for the procurement of equipment and supplies, and of the particular situation prevailing in Cambodia, including the devastated state of its infrastructure and the climatic conditions, which justified a special effort before the onset of the rainy season.

12. Those exceptional circumstances had led to the unusual approach of seeking substantial appropriations in advance of the General Assembly's review and approval of the detailed cost estimates. The Twelve would accept the proposed initial appropriations on the understanding that a detailed budget would be submitted at the next resumed session of the General Assembly, reflecting the implementation plan as approved by the Security Council. However, such acceptance would be on an ad hoc basis and should not be seen as a precedent. The Twelve attached great importance to the established budgetary procedure for peace-keeping operations, and UNTAC should be no exception.

13. The Twelve felt that the organizational structure of the Secretariat units dealing with the planning, implementation and logistics of peace-keeping operations needed to be reviewed, since the Organization had failed to keep pace with the increasing number of peace-keeping operations and their growing complexity. They would welcome a report by the Secretary-General on the matter, to be submitted as soon as possible and not later than the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

14. The Twelve would encourage further efforts towards solving the specific problem of financing the early stages of peace-keeping operations, since rapid

(Mrs. Emerson, Portugal)

deployment could be a crucial factor. They regretted that the United Nations financial situation remained precarious, and were concerned that the launching of new peace-keeping operations was jeopardized by the persistent failure of Member States to comply with their financial obligations.

OTHER MATTERS

15. Ms. SHENWICK (United States of America) noted that there were omissions in document A/46/817, document A/C.5/46/SR.55, document A/C.5/46/SR.4 and that document A/C.5/46/L.20 was incorrect. Her delegation recognized the difficulty of maintaining accuracy and commended the Secretariat on its efforts to date. It was raising the issue of accuracy of documents because of the important and historical significance of the records. It had submitted specific corrections in writing to the Secretariat and looked forward to the issuance of the official corrections to the Fifth Committee documents just mentioned as well as to others for which it would be submitting corrections.

16. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that delegations were entitled to submit corrections to summary records, but that there was an established procedure for doing so.

17. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that the delay in the issuance of summary records was regrettable, since it was frequently difficult to recall what had been said so long after the event.

18. The CHAIRMAN noted that that was an important issue which was also of concern to other committees, but felt that it should be discussed under an appropriate agenda item.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.